



News Release

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Contact:

Wes Chapin

(805) 585-1845

wchap@parks.ca.gov

Boat Hoist at Gaviota State Park Set to Reopen in Early July

GOLETA - California State Parks announced today that it has made significant progress in upgrading the popular boat hoist at Gaviota State Park and plans to reopen it to boaters in early July. The exact reopening date will be announced once it is determined.

"We know how important the hoist at Gaviota State Park is to our boating visitors, and we want them to know we're doing everything we can to expedite this upgrade," said Wes Chapin, California State Parks' spokesperson.

The result of the work now underway will be a new hoist that is safer, faster and more reliable, with shorter down-times during maintenance.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways provided emergency funding that made the hoist improvements possible. "We want to express our deep appreciation to our partners at DBAW for their continuing support of this facility," Chapin said.

The upgraded hoist has been described as the largest and most rugged hoist available in the marketplace, most commonly selected for industrial applications. The new two-speed motor will allow boaters to raise and lower their boats at twice the speed of the old hoist, reducing the possibility of hoist damage caused by waves striking the boats as they are being raised or lowered.

Down time for maintenance or any future repairs will be reduced significantly, since replacement parts for the new American-made motor will not need to be shipped from Europe.

The hoist's electrical system is also being upgraded, adding an additional level of reliability and safety. The new system will include a card-reader to allow trained boaters to operate the hoist seven days a week.

Once the hoist is operational, it will be opened to the public on a limited basis while State Parks staff evaluates it to make sure it functions as expected. During this initial assessment period the hoist will be open Thursdays through Sundays, from 8 a.m. to approximately 7 p.m., depending on ocean conditions, with State Park staff and volunteers handling launchings and retrievals.

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A free update service is available to anyone wanting to get the latest progress of the hoist improvement work and information about the upcoming hoist-users training program, by sending an email to gaviotahoistupdate@hotmail.com or by calling (805) 968-1033.

The hoist facility was closed in November 2005, after it experienced the latest in a long series of malfunctions. An extensive evaluation of the hoist was conducted by Northeast Engineers and Consultants, Inc., an engineering firm specializing in marine industrial facility design. Their report provided the basis for the improvements now underway. The report is available at http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/606/files/report_full_20050617.pdf

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